



C L A S S I C

# STAR WARS

CLASSIC  
STAR WARS  
13

\$2.50 US  
\$3.15 CAN



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93

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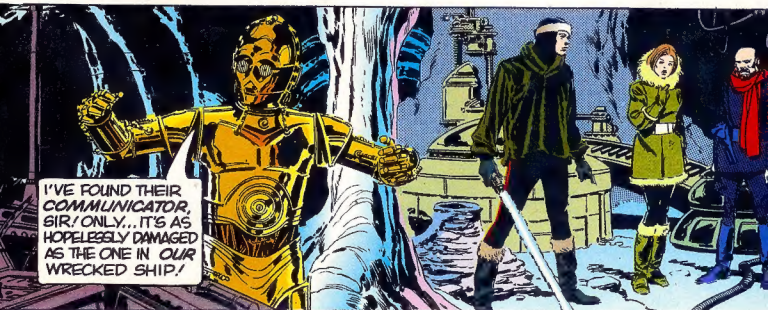
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**Classic Star Wars #13**, Oct., 1993  
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# WHAT HAS COME BEFORE

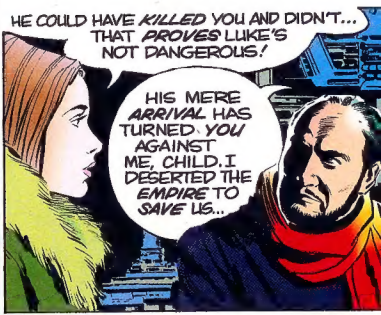
Far out on one of the rimworlds, Raskar and Mystra have warned Han about trying to procure one of the infamous power gems. At Han's insistence, Chewie picks a fight with the main contender in the power gem competition, managing to distract the crowd so Han can slip away to covertly grab the power gem. Han finds the power gem fast losing its power, with only enough left to be used once more. Meanwhile, Luke and Threepio are busy escaping a group of Imperial TIE fighters by maneuvering into the slipstream of a comet's tail, which inexorably brings them to a crash landing on the ice planet, Hoth. As Luke begins to succumb to the numbing cold, he and Threepio are rescued by Frija, and she leads them back to her father's cave fortress. Unfortunately, he wants to dismantle Threepio for parts and abandon Luke to the cold Hoth night — all in order to keep their own presence on Hoth a secret. Frija wants to keep Luke alive, for more personal reasons. As we join our story once more, Luke has just managed to subdue Frija's father . . .





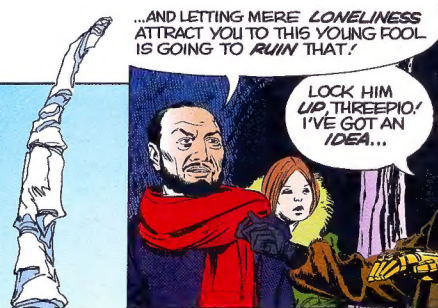
ALL YOUR OTHER EQUIPMENT IS OKAY...I THINK YOU'VE *DELIBERATELY* ISOLATED YOURSELF ON HOTH, MR. IMPERIAL GOVERNOR!

AND YOU'VE JOINED US... AGAINST MY WILL!



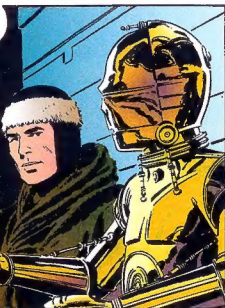
HE COULD HAVE *KILLED* YOU AND DIDN'T... THAT *PROVES* LUKE'S NOT DANGEROUS!

HIS MERE *ARRIVAL* HAS TURNED YOU AGAINST ME, CHILD. I DESERTED THE EMPIRE TO *SAVE* US...



...AND LETTING MERE *LONELINESS* ATTRACT YOU TO THIS YOUNG FOOL IS GOING TO *RUIN* THAT!

LOCK HIM UP, THREEPIO! I'VE GOT AN *IDEA*...



*MORNING!* Luke *ACTS* on his idea...

WHY DIDN'T YOUR FATHER SEEK REFUGE WITH THE *REBEL ALLIANCE*, FRIJA?

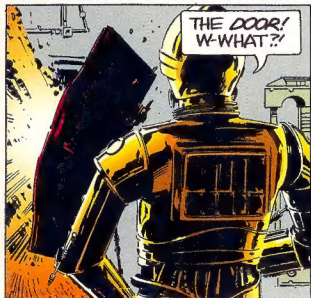
H-HE... HATES *BOTH* SIDES!



HE'S SURE *SERIOUS* ABOUT ISOLATING THE TWO OF YOU FROM THE EMPIRE AND THE REBELLION... BUT I THINK I'VE GOT A *SOLUTION* TO THE PROBLEM...

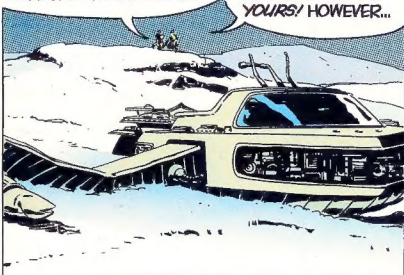


"...ESPECIALLY SINCE THREEPIO LOOKED HIM AWAY WHERE HE CAN'T INTERFERE!"



THE DOOR!  
W-WHAT?!

LUKE, I'M WILLING TO DEFEY MY FATHER TO HELP YOU, EXCEPT... WHAT CAN WE DO HERE?



YEAH, MY SHIP'S COMMUNICATOR IS AS USELESS AS YOURS! HOWEVER...

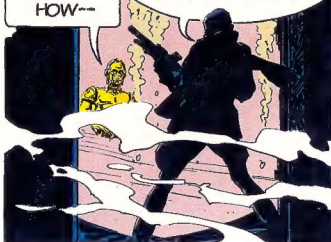
...BETWEEN THE TWO, I BET WE CAN CANNIBALIZE ENOUGH PARTS FOR A WORKING MODEL!



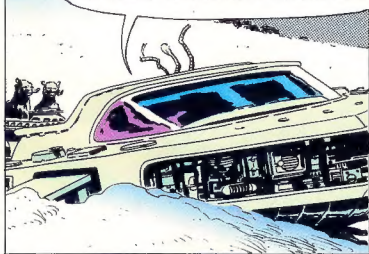
But...

GOVERNOR!  
YOU'RE FREE! BUT HOW--

YOUR YOUNG MASTER DESTROYED ONE OF MY WEAPONS! I KEEP OTHERS SECRETED THROUGHOUT THE ICE CAVE!



THAT DOES IT, FRIJA! WITH THE PARTS WE'VE SALVAGED FROM THIS WRECK'S COMMUNICATOR, COMBINED WITH THE DAMAGED ONE BACK AT YOUR CAVE...

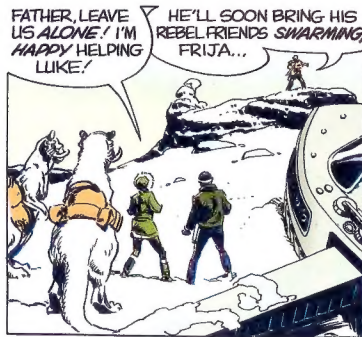
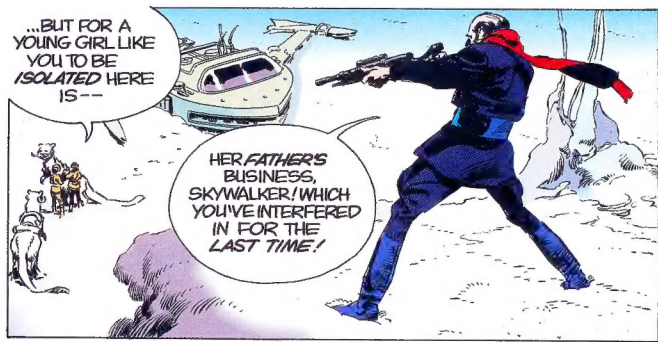
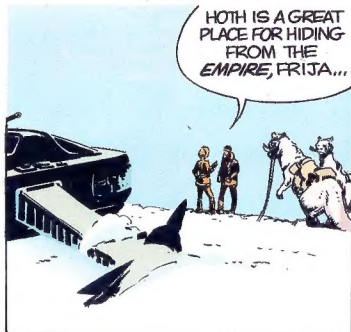
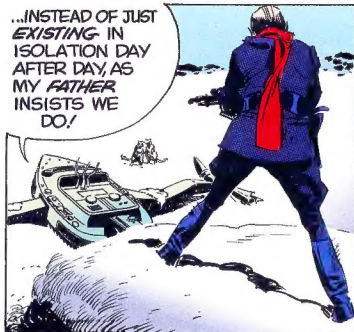


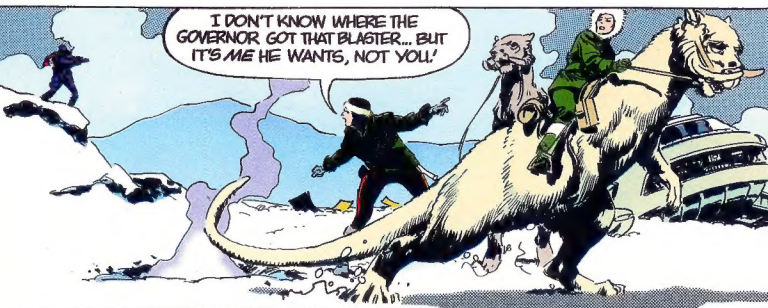
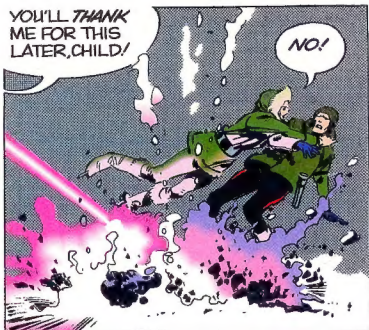
...I'M SURE I'LL BE SIGNALLING THE REBEL ALLIANCE IN NO TIME!

IT'S WONDERFUL WORKING WITH YOU, LUKE! ACTUALLY SHARING SOME PURPOSE...













Frija's raging father squeezes  
the blaster trigger...



...and Luke has no choice but to **STRIKE!**

The lightsaber stroke **FELLS** Frija's father...



HIS BLASTER  
JERKED AS IT  
FIRED...INSTEAD  
OF SHATTERING IT.  
I GOT THE  
GOVERNOR!  
H-HE'S...



HE'S...SOME KIND  
OF **MECHANICAL**  
CREATION! AN  
ELABORATE SORT  
OF...**DROID!**



L-LUKE!

FRIJA! I NEVER  
MEANT FOR  
ANYTHING TO  
HAPPEN TO YOU  
OR YOUR  
FATHER...

DON'T BLAME  
YOURSELF, LUKE! WE'RE  
**BOTH MECHANICAL...**  
CREATED BY **IMPERIAL**  
TECHNICIANS!



WE WERE DESIGNED TO BE **DECOYS**--  
PROGRAMMED TO IMITATE THE **REAL**  
GOVERNOR AND HIS DAUGHTER--SO THEY  
COULD FLEE  
A REBEL  
ATTACK!

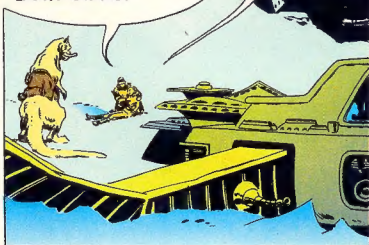


PERHAPS WE WERE PROGRAMMED TOO PERFECTLY! MY FATHER'S SURVIVAL INSTINCTS WERE SO STRONG... HE HAD US ESCAPE INSTEAD!



THE EMPIRE DESIGNED MY FATHER AND ME TO BE TARGETS FOR THE REBELS... THAT'S WHY HE HATED BOTH SIDES!

AND IF I HADN'T CRASHED HERE, FRIJA...



...THE TWO OF YOU WOULD BE LIVING SAFELY AND HAPPILY!

NO...MERELY EXISTING! AND WE WEREN'T CREATED TO LAST LONG...



YOU BROUGHT PURPOSE AND ENJOYMENT TO THE TIME I HAD. DON'T REGRET WHAT HAPPENED HERE, LUKE...

...I THANK YOU FOR IT!



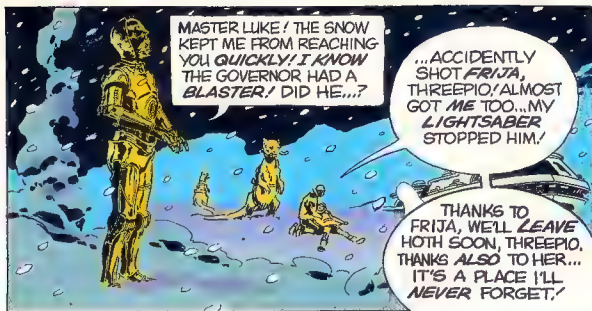
REBUILD THE COMMUNICATOR AND SUMMON YOUR FRIENDS, LUKE. I'M SORRY MY FATHER FOUGHT SO AGAINST YOU...



...BUT I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO HOTH!

FOR THE CHANCE TO HAVE KNOWN YOU, FRIJA, SO AM I...SO AM I!





MASTER LUKE! THE SNOW  
KEPT ME FROM REACHING  
YOU QUICKLY! I KNOW  
THE GOVERNOR HAD A  
BLASTER! DID HE...?

...ACCIDENTLY  
SHOT *FRIJA*,  
THREEPIO! ALMOST  
GOT ME TOO...MY  
LIGHTSABER  
STOPPED HIM!

THANKS TO  
FRIJA, WE'LL LEAVE  
HOTH SOON, THREEPIO.  
THANKS ALSO TO HER...  
IT'S A PLACE I'LL  
NEVER FORGET!

THE STARSHIP YARDS OF FONDOR! Space tugs  
and equipment barges barely have time to scatter...

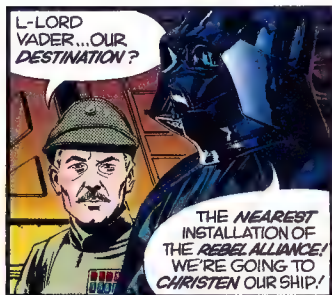
...as an awesome  
creation ROARS  
into life!







Rebel Headquarters on the fourth moon of Yavin...



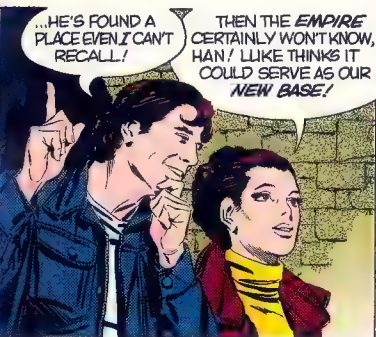
SOMEBODY OUGHT'A TELL THAT HALF-PINT HE'S AN ASTRO-DROID... NOT A LANDSPEEDER!

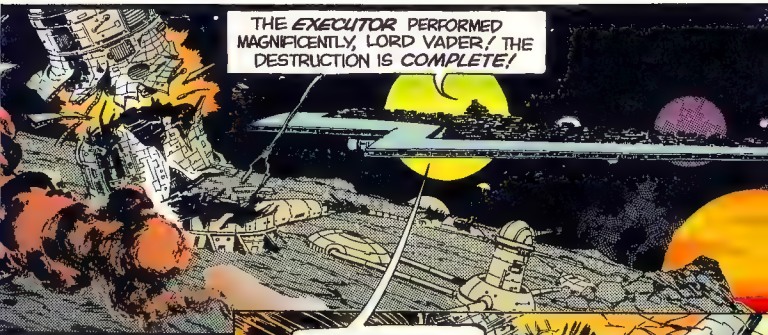
ARTOO'S JUST EXCITED, HAN... WE'VE HEARD FROM LUKE AND THREEPIO! THEY'RE SAFE!



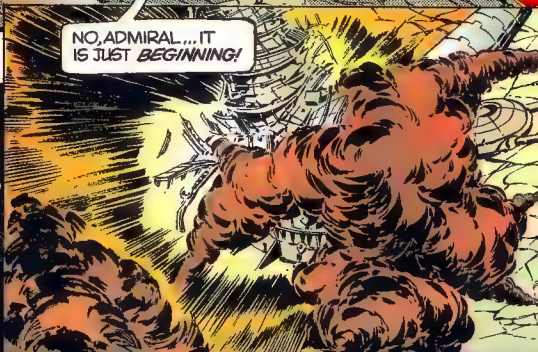
LUKE AND THREEPIO JUST NOW MANAGED TO REPAIR THEIR COMMUNICATOR AFTER CRASHING ON A PLANET CALLED HOTH!







THE *EXECUTOR* PERFORMED  
MAGNIFICENTLY, LORD VADER! THE  
DESTRUCTION IS *COMPLETE!*

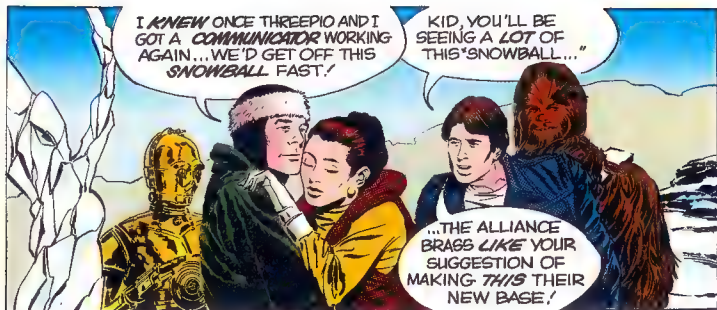


NO, ADMIRAL... IT  
IS JUST *BEGINNING!*

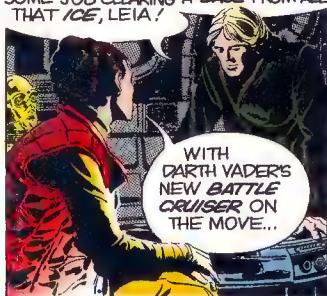


Meanwhile, old friends are reunited on *HOTH.*





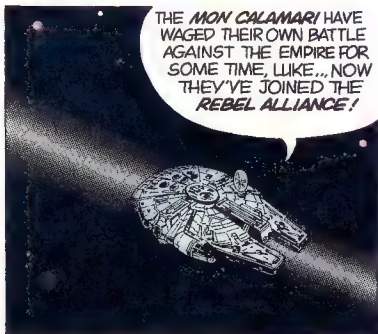
...BUT REBEL ENGINEERS WILL HAVE SOME JOB CLEARING A *BASE* FROM ALL THAT *ICE*, LEIA!



...*EVERYONE'S* WORK IS CUT OUT FOR THEM! TO SUCCESSFULLY EVACUATE OUR *YAVIN HEADQUARTERS* REQUIRES HELP...SO WE'RE SEEKING OUT THE *MON CALAMARI*!



THE *MON CALAMARI* HAVE WAGED THEIR OWN BATTLE AGAINST THE EMPIRE FOR SOME TIME, LUKE... NOW THEY'VE JOINED THE *REBEL ALLIANCE*!



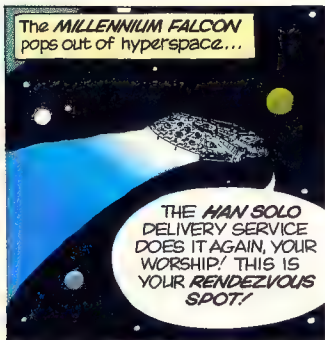
TO EVACUATE OUR YAVIN HEADQUARTERS, WE  
NEED A *DIVERSION* FOR THE IMPERIALS...  
I'M MEETING WITH THE MON CALAMARI  
LEADER, *ADMIRAL ACKBAR*,  
TO SEE IF *THEY* CAN  
SUPPLY IT!



BETTER *STRAP IN* BACK THERE,  
PRINCESS! WE'RE APPROACHING OUR  
*RENDEZVOUS COORDINATES*...TIME  
TO DROP FROM  
HYPERSPACE!



The *MILLENNIUM FALCON*  
pops out of hyperspace...



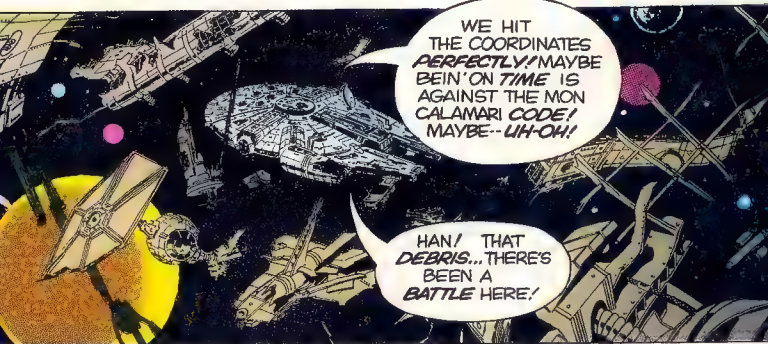
THE *HAN SOLO*  
DELIVERY SERVICE  
DOES IT AGAIN, YOUR  
WORSHIP! THIS IS  
YOUR *RENDEZVOUS*  
SPOT!

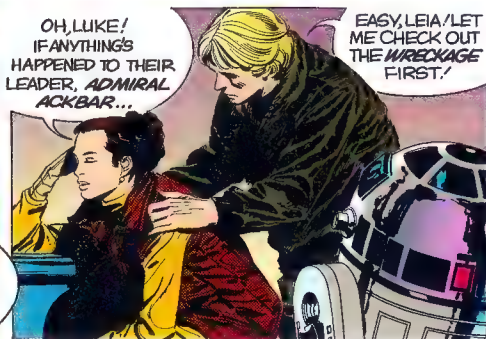
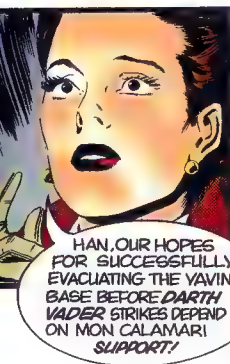
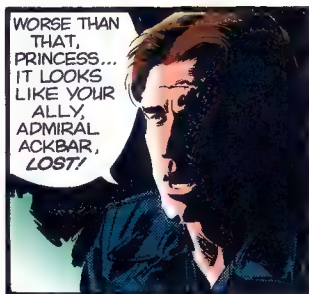
THEN WHY DON'T WE  
SEE *ADMIRAL ACKBAR'S*  
SHIP?



WE HIT  
THE COORDINATES  
*PERFECTLY!* MAYBE  
BEIN' ON *TIME* IS  
AGAINST THE MON  
CALAMARI *CODE!*  
MAYBE-- *UH-OH!*

HAN! THAT  
*DEBRIS*...THERE'S  
BEEN A  
*BATTLE* HERE!







I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND *PESSIMISTIC*, KIDS, BUT OUR INSTRUMENTS AREN'T REGISTERING ANY *LIFE SIGNS*...  
NOT A *BLIP*!

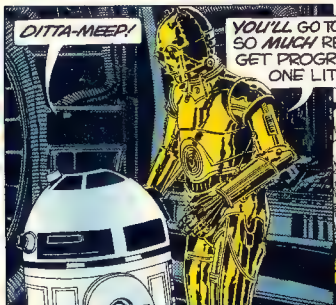


LET'S NOT GIVE UP UNTIL WE CHECK OUT THAT WRECKAGE *PERSONALLY*, LEIA!



*DITTA-MEEP!*

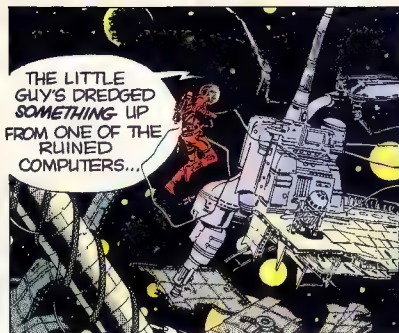
YOU'LL GO TOO? HOW COULD SO *MUCH* RECKLESSNESS GET PROGRAMMED INTO ONE LITTLE *DROID*?!



Soon, in what remains of the Mon Calamari ship's *BRIDGE SECTION*...



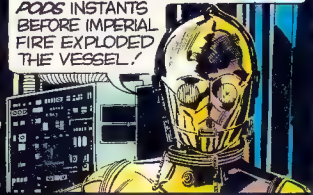
ARTOO'S *DISCOVERED* SOMETHING! BUT I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S GOOD NEWS OR *BAD*!



THE LITTLE GUY'S DREDGED SOMETHING UP FROM ONE OF THE RUINED COMPUTERS...

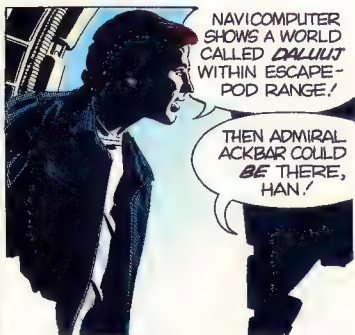
Aboard the *MILLENNIUM FALCON*,  
See-Threepio translates...

THE MACHINE APPARENTLY RECORDED THE LAUNCHING OF SEVERAL *ESCAPE PODS* INSTANTS BEFORE IMPERIAL FIRE EXPLODED THE VESSEL!



HAN, IS THERE A *PLANET* NEAR ENOUGH FOR THOSE *PODS* TO REACH?

IF THE *EMPIRE* DIDN'T REACH THE *PODS* FIRST, YOUR ROYALNESS!



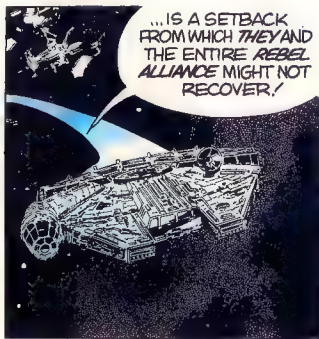
NAVICOMPUTER SHOWS A WORLD CALLED *DALLIUT* WITHIN *ESCAPE-POD* RANGE!

THEN ADMIRAL ACKBAR COULD *BE* THERE, HAN!

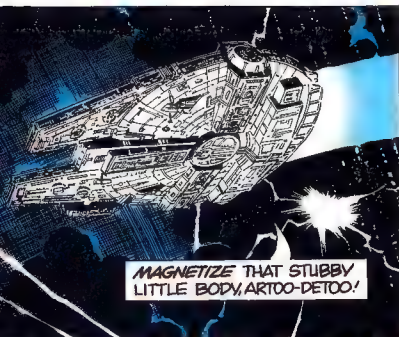


NO *GUARANTEES*, PRINCESS... A LOT MIGHT 'VE GONE WRONG!

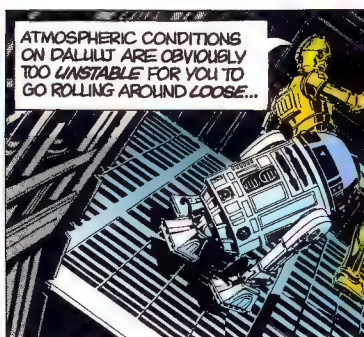
AT LEAST THERE'S *HOPE!* THE MON CALAMARI LOSING THEIR *LEADER* AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME...



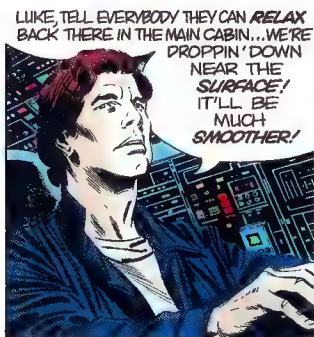
...IS A SETBACK FROM WHICH *THEY* AND THE ENTIRE *REBEL ALLIANCE* MIGHT NOT RECOVER!



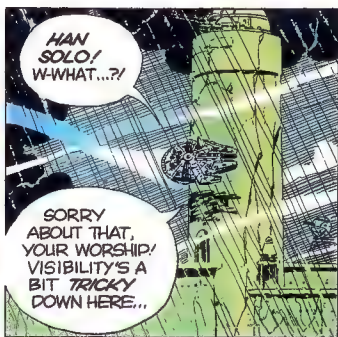
**MAGNETIZE THAT STUBBY  
LITTLE BODY, ARTOO-DETOO!**



ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS  
ON DALLUT ARE OBVIOUSLY  
TOO *UNSTABLE* FOR YOU TO  
GO ROLLING AROUND LOOSE...



LUKE, TELL EVERYBODY THEY CAN *RELAX*  
BACK THERE IN THE MAIN CABIN...WE'RE  
DROPPIN' DOWN  
NEAR THE  
*SURFACE!*  
IT'LL BE  
MUCH  
*SMOOTHER!*

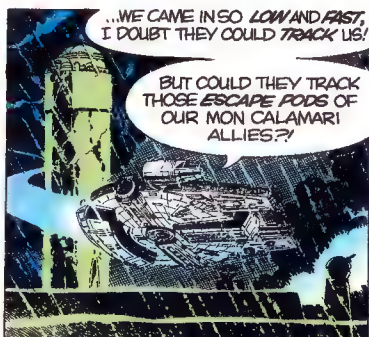


**HAN  
SOLO!**  
W-WHAT...?!

SORRY  
ABOUT THAT,  
YOUR WORSHIP/  
VISIBILITY'S A  
BIT *TRICKY*  
DOWN HERE...



...WE JUST HAD A *NEAR MISS*  
WITH WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE  
GUN TURRET OF AN IMPERIAL  
PORT! BUT NO BIG DEAL...



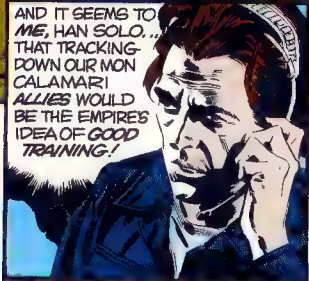
...WE CAME IN SO *LOW AND FAST*,  
I DOUBT THEY COULD *TRACK US!*

BUT COULD THEY TRACK  
THOSE *ESCAPE PODS* OF  
OUR MON CALAMARI  
ALLIES?!





DON'T GET *EXCITED*, PRINCESS! ON A PLANET AS MISERABLE AS *THIS* ONE... THAT IMPERIAL FORT WE ALMOST COLLIDED WITH CAN'T BE ANYTHING MORE THAN A *TRAINING* OUTPOST!



AND IT SEEMS TO ME, HAN SOLO... THAT TRACKING DOWN OUR MON CALAMARI *ALLIES* WOULD BE THE EMPIRE'S IDEA OF *GOOD TRAINING*!



WHAT DOES COUNT IS THAT CHEWIE'S JUST PICKED UP A *DISTRESS BEACON* AMID ALL THE LOCAL ATMOSPHERIC STATIC!

GOTTA BE THOSE *ESCAPE PODS* ARTOO DISCOVERED WERE LAUNCHED...

"PROBLEM IS, IF *WE* CAN HEAR IT, SO CAN THE *IMPERIALS*!"

**FASTER!** THIS IS MY OPPORTUNITY TO **SHOW** THE EMPIRE I'M WORTHY OF **MORE** THAN THIS BACKWATER DUTY STATION! I MEAN TO **USE** IT!

**COMMANDER ORLOK!**  
INSTRUMENTS INDICATE  
A *SHIP* OVERHEAD!

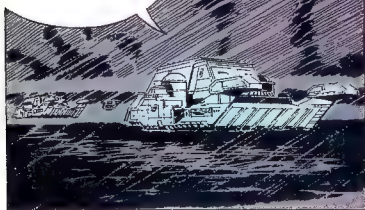
**WHAT?**  
TO ATTEMPT TO *FLY*  
THROUGH DALLUJ'S CONSTANT  
ATMOSPHERIC STORMS...

"...THEY MUST BE FOOLS OR  
MADMEN...OR *WORSE*!"

HAN, DID WE  
JUST PASS SOME  
KIND OF *IMPERIAL*  
GROUND CRAFT?

AND OBVIOUSLY  
*HOMING IN* ON THE  
SAME DISTRESS  
BEACON *WE* ARE,  
YOUR ROYALNESS!

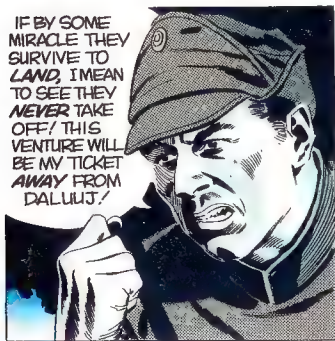
TELL THE OTHER  
PILOTS *FULL SPEED!*  
CLEARLY WE ARE IN  
A *RACE* TOWARD  
THE SOURCE OF  
THAT BEACON!



THE EMPIRE *STUCK* ME ON THIS STORM-SWEPT  
EXCUSE FOR A WORLD...I'M GOING TO *PROVE* I'M  
WORTHY OF FAR, *FAR* MORE THAN  
RUNNING A TRAINING-  
STATION!



IF BY SOME  
MIRACLE THEY  
SURVIVE TO  
*LAND*, I MEAN  
TO SEE THEY  
*NEVER* TAKE  
OFF! THIS  
VENTURE WILL  
BE MY TICKET  
AWAY FROM  
DALUUT!



Ahead...

COME  
FORWARD, LEIA!  
LOOK THERE...  
ON THAT HIGH  
GROUND!

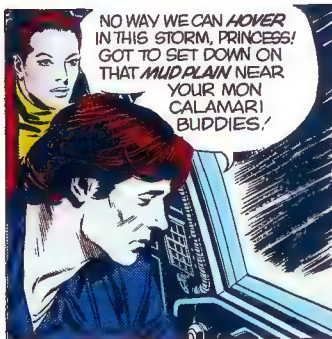
HAN! I THINK  
IT'S *ADMIRAL*  
*ACKBAR* AND  
HIS PEOPLE!



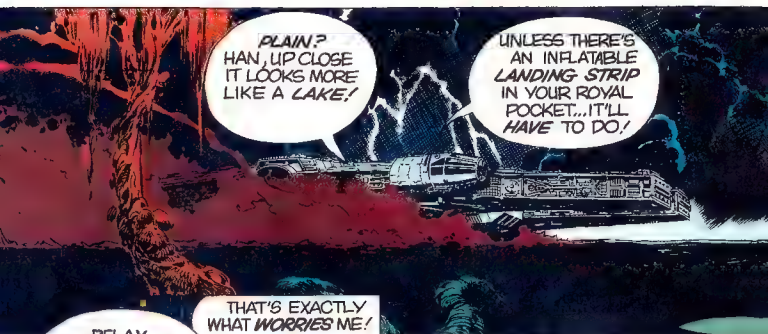
IT *IS*  
ACKBAR, HAN!  
I RECOGNIZE HIS  
ADMIRAL'S  
UNIFORM!



NO WAY WE CAN *HOVER*  
IN THIS STORM, PRINCESS!  
GOT TO SET DOWN ON  
THAT *MUD PLAIN* NEAR  
YOUR MON  
CALAMARI  
BUDDIES!







PLAIN?  
HAN, UP CLOSE  
IT LOOKS MORE  
LIKE A LAKE!

UNLESS THERE'S  
AN INFLATABLE  
LANDING STRIP  
IN YOUR ROYAL  
POCKET...IT'LL  
HAVE TO DO!

THAT'S EXACTLY  
WHAT *WORRIES* ME!

RELAX  
YOUR WORSHIP...  
IT'S THE  
*MILLENNIUM  
FALCON!*

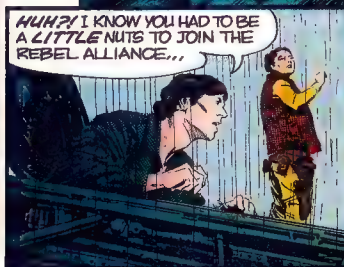
ADMIRAL ACKBAR!  
IT'S PRINCESS LEIA...  
LEIA ORGANA! WE'VE  
FOLLOWED YOUR  
*DISTRESS BEACON.*

TELL  
'EM TO  
HUSTLE  
ABOARD...

THOSE *IMPERIALS* WE FLEW  
OVER CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND!  
BESIDES, I'M NOT  
WILD ABOUT  
THE ONLY  
AVAILABLE  
LANDING  
SPOT...

I KNOW  
THE *FALCON*  
FLOATS...I JUST  
DON'T KNOW  
HOW LONG!

YOUR  
HIGHNESS...  
AN *ORDER!*  
ABANDON THAT  
SHIP...AT ONCE!  
AT ONCE!



HUH?! I KNOW YOU HAD TO BE A LITTLE NUTS TO JOIN THE REBEL ALLIANCE...



...BUT YOUR ADMIRAL BUDDY IS OVERDOING IT! AND I--

YEOOW!

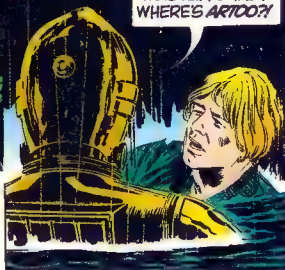


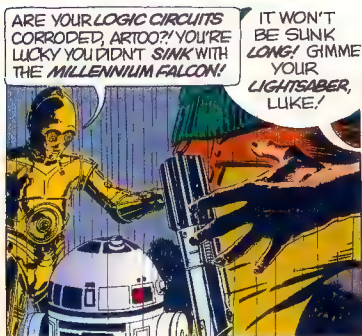
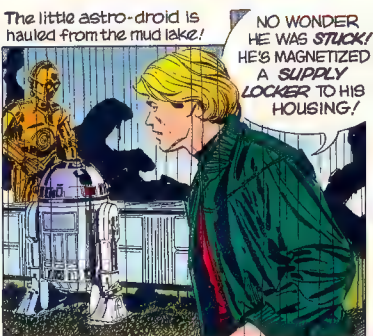
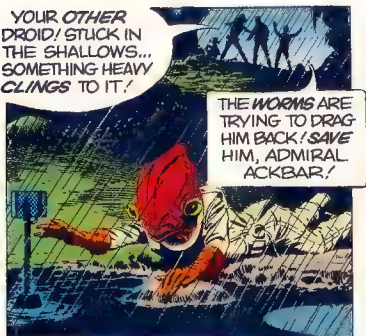
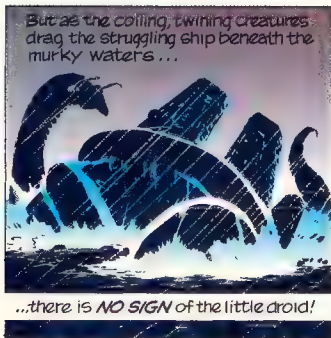
WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?! WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO MY SHIP?!

THEY DRAG IT UNDER! YOUR FRIENDS WITH IT... IF WE DO NOT ACT!

Joined by the Mon Calamari, Han and Leia swim to free those still caught on the **MILLENNIUM FALCON**! One by one, they appear! Except...

MASTER LUKE! WHERE'S ARTOO?!







PERHAPS YOU CAN  
FIGHT THE WORM  
GIANTS *ALONE*,  
CAPTAIN...



...BUT CAN YOU  
ALSO BREATHE  
MUD?!

"OKAY, MAYBE I'M LEAPIN' BEFORE  
I *THINK*, ADMIRAL ACKBAR! BUT  
WITHOUT THE *FALCON*...

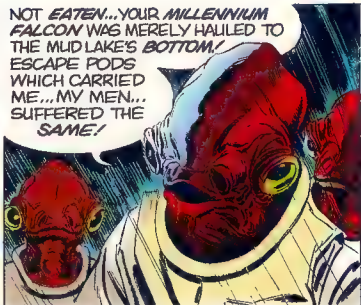


"...THE ONLY OTHER RIDES AROUND  
ARE GONNA COME COURTESY OF  
THE *EMPIRE*!"

HAVING WORMS EAT THE  
*MILLENNIUM FALCON* ISN'T OUR  
ONLY PROBLEM, ADMIRAL ACKBAR!  
WE PASSED *IMPERIAL GROUND CRAFT*  
ON OUR WAY TO *FINDING* YOU.

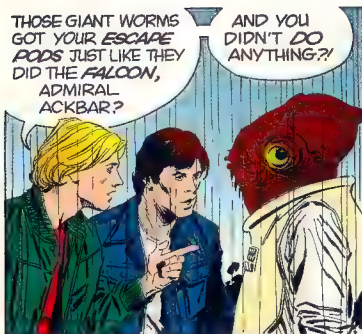


NOT *EATEN*...YOUR *MILLENNIUM  
FALCON* WAS MERELY HAILED TO  
THE MUD LAKE'S *BOTTOM*!  
ESCAPE PODS  
WHICH CARRIED  
ME...MY MEN...  
SUFFERED THE  
*SAME*!



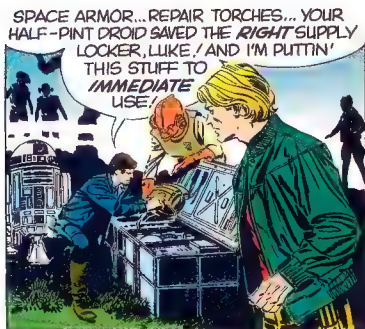
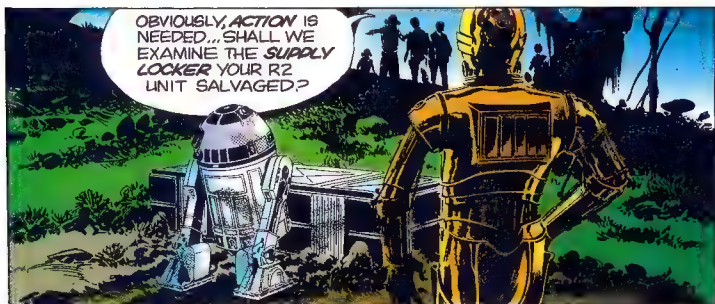
THOSE GIANT WORMS  
GOT YOUR *ESCAPE  
PODS* JUST LIKE THEY  
DID THE *FALCON*,  
ADMIRAL  
ACKBAR?

AND YOU *DIDN'T DO  
ANYTHING*?!



*DEBATE* SEEMED WASTED ON THE  
CREATURES, CAPTAIN SOLO. BLASTER  
FIRE, *INEFFECTIVE*...





Heedlessly, Han plunges  
into the mud lake's depths!

WHAT'S IT GONNA  
TAKE TO SHAKE THOSE  
SQUIRMIN' MONSTERS  
OFF HER?!

MAYBE A REPAIR  
TORCH *HOTFOOT*  
WILL-- AGHHH!  
WHAT'S  
HAPPENING-  
TO ME?!

IT'S *HAN*, ADMIRAL  
ACKBAR! BUT HE  
WOULDN'T COME UP  
SO QUICKLY  
UNLESS--

SOMETHING IS  
*WRONG*, SKYWALKER!  
AND I HAVE  
SUSPICIONS  
WHAT?!

WARRRGH?

S-SUIT WAS DESIGNED FOR *SPACE*,  
CHEWIE...PRESSURE'S *DIFFERENT*  
AT BOTTOM OF MUD LAKE! TOO  
MUCH FOR ME...EVEN  
WITH PROTECTION!

'FRAID  
WE'VE LOST...  
A *SHIP*, OL'  
BUDDY!

NOT SO...  
ONLY  
VALLUABLE  
TIME!



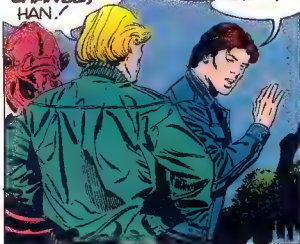
WE MON CALAMARI  
ARE *AMPHIBIANS*  
CAPTAIN SOLO...  
BETTER SUITED TO  
THE MUD LAKE'S  
PRESSURES THAN  
YOU!

WISH YOU'D  
MENTIONED THAT  
*BEFORE* I DIVED  
TO ITS *BOTTOM*!



YOU DIDN'T  
EXACTLY GIVE  
ADMIRAL  
ACKBAR THE  
*CHANCE*,  
HAN!

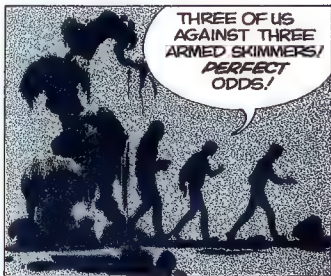
AWRIGHT, AWRIGHT!  
BUT IT'S *TOUGH*  
DOIN' NOTHING WITH  
MY *SHIP* AT STAKE,  
LUKE!



HARDLY *NOTHING*,  
CAPTAIN! WHILE  
WE RAISE THE  
*MILLENNIUM*  
*FALCON*, YOU AND  
YOUR FRIENDS  
MUST *HOLD*  
*OFF* THE  
APPROACHING  
*IMPERIALS*!

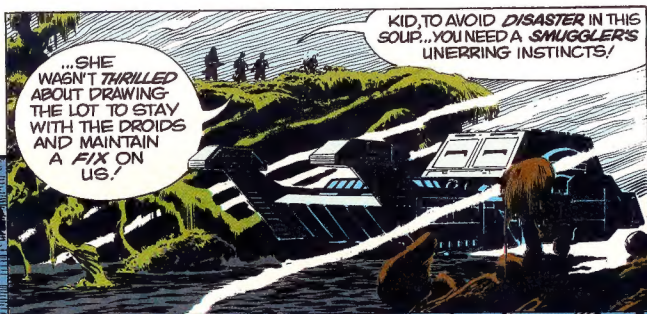


THREE OF US  
AGAINST THREE  
ARMED SKIMMERS!  
*PERFECT*  
*ODDS*!



WILL YOU QUIT  
*COMPLAINING*, HAN!  
AT LEAST THE *RAIN*'S  
STOPPED!





While the Star Warriors and their Mon Calamari allies make plans...

...their Imperial foes draw relentlessly *CLOSER!*

The adventure continues next month in *CLASSIC STAR WARS #14!*



# STELLAR



10956 S.E. MAIN STREET

MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

Welcome to another of our little Stellar shindigs! This month we're going to try something a little different; we've been getting so much mail on this series, we haven't been able to come anywhere close to printing all of it. So we'll just be pulling brief excerpts from several letters this time, starting with some comments from Jim Lopezzo of Long Valley, NJ:

Your reprinting of the '80s comic strip has done for me what Timothy Zahn's novels couldn't! *Classic Star Wars* keeps the usual excitement and suspense without compromising the story line of the first three movies. It's great!

Now that's what we like to hear, Jim! In a similar vein, John Tumbridge of Milton Keynes, England writes:

I am writing firstly to congratulate you on capturing the same feel as the *Star Wars* films in your comic. I can tell this even though I have only read one issue. I have always wanted to know what happened in between each of the *Star Wars* films. Secondly, I am very pleased to know there is someone in the world that feels the same way as I do about space and science fiction. I am referring to the letter in *Classic Star Wars* #9 from Bill Kohler. I also believe that any science fiction could be true to a certain extent. I am only 13, but I am fascinated by any science fiction, especially *Star Wars*. I hope to go into space research when I am older to try and help earth reach other galaxies. I also believe we can achieve it. Keep up the good work and thank you for printing Bill Kohler's letter.

And thank you, John, for your interest in *Classic Star Wars* and science fiction, and your belief in the future! And from Gerald

Crotty of Birmingham, England we have (along with a whole raft of his original *Star Wars* art sent along as well):

I've been enjoying your *Star Wars* comics immensely; they're the best thing amongst the current *Star Wars* revival. Al Williamson's art is pure *Star Wars*. It really is the closest thing to the movie itself. The stories are simple but still enjoyable. They seem to match the innocent sense of adventure that defined the first movie. Special praise must also go to Steve Buccellato's colors. In the past when original black-and-white art has been later colored it has spoiled it, but Steve's work is truly beautiful and never interferes with the original black inks.

.....  
"Al Williamson's art is pure *Star Wars*. It really is the closest thing to the movie itself."  
.....

And thanks for the artwork, Gerald. Our original intention to publish a page of fan art in each issue's *Star Wars* "Showcase" has gone by the boards recently, as many of you may have noticed. Rest assured, this has been due to lack of editorial space in the issues, not a lack of contributions. In fact, we've received more fan art than we'd ever be able to publish in a lifetime of *Classic Star Wars* issues, so it's time to put out a cease-and-desist request to all of you budding artists out there.

Next up, frequent correspondent Robert Knaus (320 Fisher St., Walpole, MA 02081) has some sagacious comments about issue #10:

Luke's adventures on the planet Aridus in *Classic Star Wars* #10 made for a fun, Tatooinesque ride, but a few things stuck in my craw. I know Luke's Jedi powers were weak and unrefined until Yoda properly trained him in the ways of the Force, but any Jedi, even a young, untrained one, should discern between genuine mastery of the Force and mere electronic fakery. I would think that Luke would at least be mildly uneasy and/or suspicious of the Empire's actor. Also, on page 11, Threepio is shown throwing a proton charge at the Imperial hovertrain. Is it just me, or does this seem just a bit, oh, ridiculous?! Threepio has never become part of the action in past or future *Star Wars* stories [can anyone out there think of a situation where C-3PO has had more of a dynamic part in the action?]. He's always been the comedy relief, the stalwart sidekick, the prissy voice of reason. Please don't make him any different. I may be wildly overreacting to this one thing, but I care about these little details.

On the upside, I'm glad to know what exactly Allen Nunis adds to Al Williamson's already great artwork. If he does all this great fill-in work, however, why doesn't he white out the "Goodwin-Williamson" signatures that are sprinkled throughout the strips? [Okay, Robert, you always ask the hard questions, don't you? Here's the scoop: most of the signature boxes are in fact removed and replaced with fill-in art by Allen; with those that are placed in areas of heavier-than-normal line art or zip-a-tone, a judgment call is usually made by the editor to leave the box in, rather than potentially compromise the integrity and detail of the original art.]

Robert also lamented the fact that he was having a hard time putting together a complete set



of the Topps *Star Wars* Galaxy trading cards ["They're really great, with interesting trivia, vivid production art, and fabulous new art from the best comicdom has to offer . . ."], and asked for those wishing to trade their duplicates to contact him. Rather than get into a situation where we're acting as a trading-card clearinghouse, I'll stop short of listing Robert's want list, but if anybody out there wants to correspond with him, his full address is printed above.

Laura Sanborn of Pittsfield, NH has some comments on *Classic Star Wars*, and some more general Dark Horse-related questions that are worth answering here:

I must commend you for a job well done on your *Classic Star Wars* comics. I am too young to have seen the original newspaper comic strips, but your comics certainly capture the spirit of the *Star Wars* films. In many published letters there are references to a preview copy of your comics. I was hoping there was some way I could obtain these. Do you print preview copies of all your soon-to-be published comics and request a written opinion from those select readers? [That's exactly what we do, Laura, and you've already taken the only necessary step to get on our list of potential previewers — you've written and asked us. We maintain a list of people who have written to us requesting preview copies of our books. It will generally be first issues of new series that we'll send out preview copies of. We send the previews and ask for feedback from essentially a random sample of correspondents on the list. You remain on the list as long as you keep providing us with the requisite feedback. It's as simple as that!]

[Laura continues . . .] I recently picked up a magazine-sized comic book printed in England with Dark Horse Publishing on it. Is this a different branch from our U.S. Dark Horse

comic-book company? Is there a way I could obtain a subscription to this large comic from you? Is there any way to receive a subscription to your *Classic Star Wars* comics and future *Star Wars*-related publications?

Dark Horse International is an affiliated arm of U.S.-based Dark Horse Comics that publishes both new and reprint material primarily in magazine-sized anthologies collecting related types of comics material — for instance there are currently Dark Horse International comic magazines oriented around manga, Lucasfilm-licensed material (featuring *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* stories), and 20th Century Fox-licensed material (showcasing stories featuring *Aliens* and *Predator*). These U.K.-published magazines are available through normal comics distribution channels in the U.S., but unfortunately aren't available by subscription in this country. Nor does Dark Horse currently have a subscription service for its domestically published comics, but they can always be either reserved through your local comic-book retail establishment or ordered through one of the comics mail-order houses, such as Westfield or Mile High.

Continuing with our international theme, here is a portion of a missive from David Schibeci from Willetton, Australia:

*Classic Star Wars* brings back all the magic of the movies. I've just finished re-reading issues #1-9, and they are still as good as the first time I read them. As far as I know, the newspaper strips that you are currently adapting in this series (and doing a mighty fine job of it as far as I'm concerned) were never printed in Australia. This is the first time I've read any of these strips. When I read the letters page I see there are even more strips that were printed in America that we never got here in Australia. How about printing some of these strips so us *Star Wars* fans down under can get to read them for the first time?

All in all, I am impressed by the quality of your work, so please continue printing *Star Wars* comics

(I can't wait until *Dark Empire II* comes out). I'll read anything I can get my hands on. But can you hurry up with the *Tales of the Jedi* and *Droids* series?

Patience, David! *Tales of the Jedi* #1 should hit the stands shortly after you read this in October. Both *Droids* and *Dark Empire II* are under development even now, and as for those other newspaper strips . . . as reported last issue, we'll be beginning a series of reprints featuring Russ Manning's original 1979-1980 *Star Wars* strips beginning in the summer of '94. And for all you *Star Wars* fans who've been clamoring for more, more, and more . . . believe me, that's just the tip of the Dark Horse iceberg!

Sorry for the gratuitous plugs (but for gosh sakes, you folks just continue to set me up with those great leading questions!). Continuing now with our regularly scheduled program, Blaine Hays of Manasquan, NJ has some more words of praise for the look of *Classic Star Wars*:

I'd like to comment on the artwork of Al Williamson. This is the first I've seen of his work and it made a good impression. As I read these comics, each page amazes me more and more with the way Williamson captures the images of the characters, aliens, and best of all the spacecraft.

I can't say enough about the work of Al Williamson. He's been working in the field for over 40 years now, and there certainly hasn't been any letdown in the quality of work he's been producing. While devoting most of his time recently to inking various projects for Marvel (e.g., *Spider-Man 2099*, *Daredevil: The Man Without Fear*), he's also planning on getting back into pencilling in the near future. Try tracking down some of Al's EC work from the '50s — much of which is available now in Russ Cochran's great series of affordable EC reprints.

All right, I'm all plugged up. 'Til next month, I'm . . .

— Bob Cooper



# DCP

PRESENTS A  
SCAN BY

# DARTH SCANNER

*Leeching leads to the Dark Side of the Force.  
A good Jedi buys comics and supports the industry!*